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Committee of Experts on Public Administration
Sixteenth session
24-28 April 2017
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional annotated agenda

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

The Committee will elect a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur for the sixteenth session. The Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur constitute the Bureau. In accordance with established practice, the officers will continue to act as the Bureau in preparation for the seventeenth session for the duration of the current term, consulting with newly appointed Committee members.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The Committee is invited to adopt the agenda of its sixteenth session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2016/257.

The Committee is scheduled to meet from Monday to Friday, 24 to 28 April 2017. The morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Informal meetings and events may be held at other times.

Documentation

Provisional annotated agenda (E/C.16/2017/1)

3. Ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through leadership, action and means

This is the second year of implementation of the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015. At its fifteenth session, the Committee reflected on the implications of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for public administration and provided policy advice and a programmatic guide to the Economic and Social Council on the issue. Its work supported the formulation of Council resolution 2016/26 addressing, among other things, the role of public institutions, integrated policies for the Goals, participatory decision-making and inclusive service delivery, diversity and non-discrimination, oversight and accountability in the implementation of the Goals and public servants and the Goals. At its coordination and management meeting on 27 July 2016, the Council also endorsed the Committee's recommendation to examine, at its sixteenth session, the effective implementation of the Goals through leadership, action and means.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on successfully achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: what is to be done? (E/C.16/2017/2)

Conference room paper on implementation and follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/26 on the report of the fifteenth session of the Committee

(a) Understanding the needs of local authorities and communities and supporting and equipping them for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

At its fifteenth session, the Committee emphasized that local authorities will play a critical role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, given their proximity to the population and at the grassroots level, their role in delivering basic public services, and their ability to take integrated approaches. Countries should therefore enhance efforts to promote policy integration between levels of government and develop more robust national frameworks for sharing responsibilities and resources in the pursuit of common objectives. The Committee stressed in that regard that the responsibilities of local governments for implementing the Goals should be supported by adequate human and financial resources and capacities.

At its sixteenth session, the Committee will continue its consideration of the question of understanding the needs of local authorities and communities and supporting and equipping them for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on understanding the needs of local authorities and communities and supporting and equipping them for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (E/C.16/2017/3)

Conference room paper on transforming local authorities and communities into informed actors to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Conference room paper on local authorities and the Sustainable Development Goals: the case of the Russian Federation

(b) Institutional leadership and the Sustainable Development Goals

At its fifteenth session, the Committee agreed that implementing the Sustainable Development Goals requires effective and transformative leadership and that leadership at a high political level is a decisive factor. The Committee noted that practices of exemplary leadership include the sharing of an inspiring vision, anticipating future challenges, creating a road map, challenging the status quo and encouraging people to act with political buy-in and in partnership with other actors. At its sixteenth session, the Committee will continue its consideration of the question of institutional leadership and the Goals.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on institutional leadership and the Sustainable Development Goals (E/C.16/2017/4)

Conference room paper on engaging the bureaucracy in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals

(c) Institutional arrangements for the Sustainable Development Goals

At its fifteenth session, the Committee encouraged Governments to develop institutional arrangements and mechanisms for supporting the development and implementation of coherent and integrated policies for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, noting that doing so also requires sustained leadership and that cooperation, consultation, engagement, dialogue and partnership be made the modus operandi of public administrations and public servants. The Committee encouraged innovative efforts to build the capacities of public institutions for implementing the Goals in areas such as coherent policymaking, planning, implementation, foresight, evidence-based review of progress and the collection and use of statistics and data.

In addition, the Committee suggested that governments and other relevant actors sustain the promotion of creativity, innovation and excellence in public administration by, among other things, transforming administrative structures, processes, legislation and regulations on the basis of information and communications technology and the Internet. At its sixteenth session, the Committee will continue its consideration of the question of institutional arrangements for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on institutional arrangements for the Sustainable Development Goals (E/C.16/2017/5)

Report of the expert meeting on readying institutions and policies for integrated approaches to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Vienna, 14 to 16 December 2016

Conference room paper on institutional arrangements for implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level

(d) Development of principles of effective governance

At its fifteenth session, the Committee decided to draft, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a set of principles of responsible and effective governance to inform the study of more specific issues that cohered with the Sustainable Development Goals and the priorities of the Economic and Social Council in order to serve as a normative baseline for future policy and practice and possibly inform a global research agenda for public administration and development. At its sixteenth session, the Committee may wish to consider possible core elements of principles of effective governance and propose a way forward.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on moving towards a set of internationally recognized principles of effective governance (E/C.16/2017/6)

(e) Strategies for integrated action to achieve poverty eradication: implications for public institutions

In the 2030 Agenda, it was recognized that eradicating poverty in all its form and dimensions is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for

sustainable development. People living in poverty often face multiple types of deprivations and disadvantages, which lead them to being left behind as sustainable development proceeds. At its fifteenth session, the Committee recommended that national and local governments, in their first steps to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, identify implementation priorities, targets and institutional arrangements and determine who is at risk of being left behind, drawing on broad consultations and engagement with civil society, with specific consideration given to the institutional reforms necessary and adjustments to policies, capacities and resources. The Committee observed that public institutions have a particularly important role to play in ending poverty in all its dimensions and ensuring that no one is left behind through the provision of public services and employment opportunities and the promotion of diversity and non-discrimination, among other actions.

The Committee noted that the principle of leaving no one behind, which is a core principle of the 2030 Agenda, sheds new light on the importance of overcoming some challenges that public administrations have long faced and the urgency of realizing the social equity principle in public administration. To do so, innovative ways have to be found to ensure that the concern to leave no one behind pervades public policies and public institutions at all levels. The contribution of the Committee to the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development identified possible elements to make that happen.

The Committee also noted that global policy coherence, or the lack thereof, could have a profound effect on development. For example, there might be priorities in the areas of trade, finance, production and consumption that compete or conflict with efforts to promote poverty eradication, protect the environment and reduce climate change.

At its sixteenth session, the Committee will consider strategies for integrated action to eradicate poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon and the implications for public institutions and the delivery of public services.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on poverty eradication through regional development: the case of Brazil (E/C.16/2017/7)

Background note on the challenges for institutions in eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world: draft contribution to the 2017 thematic review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

4. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Committee

The Committee will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its seventeenth session. In its resolution 68/1, the General Assembly called upon the Economic and Social Council to invite its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the Council's agreed annual theme. The theme of the 2018 session of the Council will be "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities". The Committee may wish to propose a provisional agenda for the seventeenth session incorporating an item on the governance and public administration aspects of the 2018 theme of the Council.

The Committee may also wish to allow for a contribution to the 2018 theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to which the Council's theme is related. The forum's theme is "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies".

5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixteenth session

The Committee will adopt a report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council on the work of its sixteenth session. In accordance with resolution 68/1, the Committee will include in its report an executive summary, and the report should be concise, clearly identifying the conclusions and recommendations and issues that may require attention and/or action by the Council. The Council may conduct an action-oriented review of the report and recommendations of the Committee, focusing attention on issues that require a prioritized and coordinated substantive response from the United Nations system as a whole.

The Committee will also consider its contribution to the 2017 thematic review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the challenges for institutions in eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world, as well as to the in-depth review of the Sustainable Development Goals on eradicating poverty, ending hunger, ensuring healthy lives, achieving gender equality, building resilient infrastructure and promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and protecting oceans (Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14). In this connection, the Committee may examine and advise on institutional arrangements, plans and policies and means of implementation that can best build on the interlinkages among these Goals, as well as between them and the other Goals, and achieve integrated approaches.